**III. Project Services**

1. **The extent to which the services provided by the proposed project are appropriate to the needs of the intended recipients or beneficiaries of those services.**

The GREAT MINDS Project will serve the West Alabama community, which is composed of a majority of African-American and low-income students, by establishing an GREAT MINDS International Consortium to provide local pre-service and in-service teachers with best practices in STEM and hands-on learning, by providing on-going professional development for local teachers in the areas of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), by providing summer enrichment STEM camps for local students from the West Alabama community, and by recruiting and retaining male and female African-American students in the teacher education program at UWA by supporting this population through faculty mentoring, service learning experiences, and exposure to global teaching and learning. The GREAT MINDS Project is designed around three primary goals which establish a breadth of services to meet the needs of all participants: P-12 students, in-service teachers, and pre-service teachers; global higher education, business, and government partners; nationally renowned P-12 educators, as well as UWA faculty. These services will specifically be accessible to all students, in-service teachers, and pre-service teachers in the West Alabama region. Efforts to make the GREAT MINDS Project available to the West Alabama target population include: providing transportation for P-12 students to the summer camps; offering the summer camps at no charge to the P-12 students who attend; stipends for teachers to attend the professional development week of camp and the week of teaching students at summer camp; funds for substitute teachers so in-service teachers can attend professional development during the school year; vouchers for science or math hands-on kits to participating teachers who complete the project; and funds for national journals, conferences, and field trips for pre-service teachers.